

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the previously pending claims with the following claim listing.

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting or monitoring lupus in a subject, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting an SFRP1 expression profile ~~of at least one gene~~ in a ~~biological~~ kidney sample of a subject; and

comparing said SFRP1 expression profile to a reference SFRP1 expression profile ~~of said at least one gene~~; and

using said comparison to detect or monitor ~~an autoimmune disease~~ lupus in said subject, wherein said ~~at least one gene is differentially expressed in pre-symptomatic lupus affected or predisposed tissues as compared to disease free tissues~~ subject is a mouse or human.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said subject is a human.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said expression profile and said reference expression profile are determined by RT-PCR or immunoassays.

9-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method comprising: contacting lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed mouse kidney cells with an agent ~~with lupus affected or lupus predisposed cells~~; and comparing expression ~~profiles or protein activities~~ of SFRP1 ~~at least one gene~~ in said mouse kidney cells before and after said contacting to determine if said agent modulates SFRP1 expression ~~or protein activity of said at least one gene~~, wherein said ~~at least one gene is differentially expressed in lupus affected or lupus predisposed cells as compared to disease free cells~~.

20. (Currently amended) A method comprising: administering an agent to a lupus-affected or lupus-predisposed ~~subject~~ mouse; and comparing expression ~~profiles or protein activities~~ of ~~at least one gene~~ SFRP1 in ~~biological~~ kidney samples of the ~~subject~~ mouse before and after said

administering to determine if said agent modulates expression or protein activity of SFRP1 in the mouse subject, wherein said at least one gene is differentially expressed in lupus affected or lupus predisposed kidney tissues as compared to disease free kidney tissues.